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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st March 1902.

CONTENTS.

I.—Foreign Politics.

The Australian Government and Indian seamen.

The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th February, referring to the recent orders of the Australian Government prohibiting the employment of Indian seamen in steamers carrying Australian mails, says that when Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, was asked to veto this unjust order, he said that he had no power to interfere in the matter. But the Viceroy of India can, if he should choose to do so, bring the Australians to a sense of justice and propriety. Let His Excellency issue an order prohibiting the immigration into India of all such Australians as are innocent of at least one Indian vernacular. SANJIVANI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

The new Amir's policy.

2. The *Hindi-Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th February is sorry that the present Amir of Cabul is losing his popularity. He departed from the policy of his father in his treatment of his troops, who rose against their commander and actually killed him. It is said that some of his troops are demanding an increase of pay. If, in dealing with them, the Amir does not act wisely, it will surely be very difficult for him to rule a ferocious people like the Afghans. HINDI-BANGAVASI, Feb. 25th, 1902.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

Dacoity and theft in the Midnapore district.

3. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 19th February says that dacoity and theft are rife in the villages in the jurisdiction of thana Naraingurh, and in village Jhargram. The Police ought to see to this. MEDINI BANDHAV, Feb. 19th, 1902.

Ruffianism in Telinipara in the Hooghly district.

4. The Telinipara correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th February, writes to say that on the 14th February at 12 noon, while two female servants of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji were returning home from their bath in the river, a ruffian struck them with an iron rod, felling them quite senseless to the ground, and decamped with the ornaments they had on. The place of the occurrence was only five or six minutes' walk from the thana. Ruffianism and theft have, of late, been on the increase, and the life and property of the people are not safe. Will the District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, see to this? BASUMATI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

Unlicensed sale of cocaine in Calcutta.

5. The *Navayag* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says that there is a shop in the narrow lane adjoining the Bengal Theatre where cocaine is sold privately without license. The owner of the shop has already been fined five or six times; but this has not had a deterrent effect, inasmuch as he earns nearly one hundred rupees by selling cocaine worth two hundred rupees every day. Will the Police inquire? NAVAYUG, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

The First Subordinate Judge of Barisal.

6. A correspondent writes to the *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 18th February: In a case before the First Subordinate Judge of Barisal, Mr. Wetherell was summoned as a witness. He, however, did not put in an appearance, and was therefore called upon to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for contempt of Court. BIKASH, Feb. 18th, 1902.

On the appointed day, Mr. Wetherell appeared before the Subordinate Judge, and in an excited tone explained why he had not been present on the previous occasion, remarking that in calling him as a witness the party meant only to harass him unnecessarily. Upon this the Judge sent for the pleader in the case, and, on being informed that he was engaged in another Court, took the innocent peshkar to task for not having told the pleader to wait in his Court. It, however, so happened that a junior pleader in the case was at the time present in the Court in connection with some other case; and the Subordinate Judge asked him to go on with the examination of Mr. Wetherell.

The junior pleader, however, had to decline, saying that he had no instructions in the matter. Upon this the Subordinate Judge in an angry tone, said—"You must." The junior pleader again declined.

The Judge, in a thundering voice, exclaimed—"You will be prosecuted under the Legal Practitioners' Act for misconduct." At last, at the intercession of another pleader, the Court ordered the party to pay five rupees as Mr. Wetherell's travelling charges. After Mr. Wetherell left the Court, it is said that a pleader asked the Subordinate Judge if it was right and proper for the latter to have made such an invidious distinction between Europeans and Natives, and the Subordinate Judge replied that Europeans were to be treated in that way.

SANJIVANI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

The recent appointments to High Court Judgeships.

7. Referring to the recent appointment of three Judges in the Calcutta High Court, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th February asks, why has a Judge been imported from Allahabad, setting aside the claims of Mr. B. L. Gupta, who officiated as a Judge on two or three occasions with great ability? Has a Judgeship been given to Mr. Chamier as a reward for his services in connection with the Panna trial? Then, again, why has not Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh been appointed a Judge of the High Court? Who is there in the bar equal to him in erudition or skill? He is a man of independence; and it is not bad for a Judge to be independent. It is not just or fair to ignore his claims to a High Court Judgeship.

BASUMATI. Feb. 20th, 1902.

The pen-and-ink day not observed in the High Court.

8. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that the last *Sri Panchami* day was not observed as a holiday on the Appellate Side of the Calcutta High Court, and remarks that the Hindu *shastras* strictly forbid reading and writing on that day. This has wounded the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus.

BASUMATI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

9. The same paper says that Government deserves the thanks of all for having appointed Babu Sarada Charan Mitra to officiate as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. He is deeply learned in the law, impartial and patient.

HITAVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

Ibid.

10. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February, is glad that Babu Sarada Charan Mitra has been appointed a Judge of the Calcutta High Court to officiate in the place of the Hon'ble Justice Gurudas Banerjee, and hopes to find a learned Vakil of a gentle disposition like him soon made a permanent member of the High Court Bench.

SUHRID, Feb. 21st, 1902.

The Deputy Magistrate, Ashu Babu, of Noakhali.

11. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 21st February says that the Deputy Magistrate, Ashu Babu, often makes an exhibition of temper on the bench. Inquiries, made in mild and respectful language, are met with angry replies. He cannot bear noise, and sometimes he angrily raises his hand on hearing it. One day he was about to assault his Peshkar. In social life, he refuses to associate with the public, moving only in the company of his fellow-officials.

BANGABASI, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

12. Referring to the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra to the Officiating Judgeship of the Calcutta High Court, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February writes as follows:—

At last our desire has been fulfilled. Four years ago we said that our joy would know no bounds if Sarada Babu were appointed as a member of the High Court Bench. And now the day has come, and Sarada Babu has been appointed a Judge.

Sarada Babu's knowledge of law is uncommon. Who can therefore deny that the fit man has been placed in the fit place? In learning, in knowledge, in wealth, in respectability Sarada Babu occupies a high position.

May success ever follow his footsteps! We are confident that he will earn fresh laurels in his new position. We hope to find him soon made a permanent member of the High Court Bench.

BANGAVASI, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

The High Court working on the last Saraswati Puja day.

13. The same paper says that two Judges of the Calcutta High Court, one of whom is a Hindu, held Court on the last Saraswati Puja day. No Hindu, who believes the *Shastras*, can view this with satisfaction.

14. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says that the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court has, without doubt, given entire satisfaction to the public.

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

NAVAYUG, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

15. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 22nd February says that in obedience to a circular issued by the Inspector-General of Registration, Registrars and Sub-Registrars refused to receive *malikana* fees in respect of *kabuliyats* for portions of immoveable property even when the grantors of such *kabuliyats* tendered such fees. But it now appears that it is the intention of the law that *malikana* fees should be paid in respect of all *kabuliyats* no matter whether they are for an entire immoveable property or only for a portion of it; and acting upon this interpretation of the law, certain Munsifs and Subordinate Judges of Barisal are rejecting as null and void all *kabuliyats* in respect of which *malikana* fees have not been paid. It is very hard that tenants should suffer in this way on account of an error made by the Inspector-General of Registration.

Rejection of certain *kabuliyats* by Civil Courts in Barisal.

SUHRID Feb. 22nd, 1902.

16. Referring to the elevation of Babu Sarada Charan Mitter to the Calcutta High Court Bench, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th February says that Mr. Justice Mitra is an eminently qualified man. He is a lover of his country and of his country's language and literature. He has a great admiration for the ancient Bengali poets, and at one time he undertook the publication of the poems of Bidyapati, Chandidas, and others.

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

PRATIVASI, Feb. 24th, 1902.

17. Referring to the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court, the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta], of the 25th February, says that, besides his knowledge of the law, his patience and strength of character are praiseworthy.

Babu Sarada Charn Mitra as Officiating Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

BANGABHUMI, Feb. 25th, 1902.

(d)—Education.

18. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th February, referring to the appointment of Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerjee as a member of the University Commission, says that no better selection was possible, and that a deep slur would have been cast on the Indians in general if no native of India had been appointed to the Commission.

Mr. Justice Banerjee's appointment to the University Commission.

CHARU MIHIR Feb. 18th, 1902.

19. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th February writes as follows :—

The educated people of India.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Feb. 19th, 1902.

Seldom do we find creatures more miserable than the offspring of our universities. They are naturally very intelligent, but their intelligence is worn out in passing through examinations. Their bodies are the abodes of disease, and they become old in youth. Such generally is the state of their health that they cannot walk two miles together. Again, the great majority of them become clerks. The money which they expend on education can be more profitably employed in *mahajani*. Such is the intellectual, physical and financial condition of our educated people.

In the old times pandits showed genius and originality. In these days the so called educated men do not even understand the books which they have left behind them. But in these days one cannot dispense with University education, because one cannot earn his living without a University certificate.

Education is thinning the ranks of respectable people among us. Very few educated people live beyond fifty years of age. What is then the good of this education? Our children should lead ignorant but healthy and happy lives rather than be educated and die out.

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that Mr. Justice Bannerjee's appointment as a member of the University Commission has been universally commended. Mr. Justice Bannerjee has vast experience of University affairs, and he will prove an acquisition to the Commission.

Mr. Justice Banerjee's appointment to the University Commission.

BASUMATI Feb. 20th, 1902.

BASUMATI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

Babu Devendra Nath Dhar's maps.

21. The same paper says:—The other day some maps, prepared by Babu Devendra Nath Dhar, were placed before us for inspection, and they seemed in no way inferior to those prepared by Babu Shashi Bhushun Chatterji. Some were even better executed than the latter. Babu Devendra Nath Dhar deserves encouragement at the hands of the authorities who have not done wrong in recommending their use in schools. At the same time, Babu Shashi Bhushan Chatterji's maps are free from inaccuracies, and the authorities have not acted fairly in having made no mention of them in their lists of text-books. Both might very well have been mentioned.

SANJIVANI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that the advice in the Viceroy's Convocation speech about the duties of journalists was certainly out of place, inasmuch as no graduate takes to journalism as a profession. Lord Curzon is an adept in speaking sweet words. He said "that native character and native ability" are "never kept in the background." Why, then, are Dr. Jagadis Chandra Basu and Mr. Percival, of the Education Department, paid smaller salaries than European Professors? Why does Mr. D. N. Mallik, though a Wrangler, occupy a position lower than those occupied by Europeans who are not Wranglers? Why are Europeans, less qualified than Mr. S. Mehalanabis, given superior posts? Why is a civilian, like Mr. B. De, being denied a higher office? Why has not a lawyer like Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh been given a Judgeship? There are other instances of the kind. Whatever Lord Curzon might say to the contrary, the real fact is that merit has not always been the first consideration in giving away appointments.

Lord Curzon said that the Indians have no self-reliance, and that they are "apt to find themselves astray when something happens that is not provided for by the regulations or that defies all precedent." This is a stereotyped charge against the Indians. Are the Indians given real opportunities to work independently? The fact is there is no scope for independence, for originality, for executive initiative, for a native of India. The Indians are never permitted to get into the water, and are yet found fault with for not being able to swim.

Lord Curzon told the truth when he said that native newspapers are given to exaggeration and are often found to impute the worst motives. But will Lord Curzon do anything to cure the evil? The Government is not disposed to supply native newspapers with correct news, nor does it take due notice of their complaints; and this accounts for exaggeration and imputation of motives.

The concluding portion of the speech is conceived in the best spirit. May God fulfil Lord Curzon's wish!

SANJIVANI.

The Presidency Inspector's list of text-books.

23. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, has promulgated a list of text-books for the Entrance, Middle, Upper Primary and Lower Primary schools within his jurisdiction for the year 1902. But the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, fixed the text-books for middle schools not only for 1902 but also for 1903. The students of these schools, who will appear in their examinations in 1902 and 1903, have already brought these books and partly gone thorough them. But if the Inspector's list is to be followed, they must buy new books. Is it Mr. Pedler's desire that these poor boys will buy new books and study them anew?

Again, in the Inspector's list text-books have been fixed for subjects which are not to be studied from any particular book.

We request Mr. Pedler to try the truth of this statement by comparing this list with the lists promulgated in the Patna, Orissa, Burdwan, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions. He will see that in these lists text-books have been fixed in only English, Bengali, and Sanskrit, and not in any other subject. In the Chittagong Inspector's list text-books on science have been fixed for the fifth class and downward; but this has also been wrong. Because had it been Mr. Pedler's intention that those books which would be taught in the lower classes of entrance schools should also be taught in middle schools, he himself

would have made arrangements for it. Again, the rule is that District Boards will select text-books for second class pathsalas under them, and under this rule the five District Boards within the Presidency Division selected text-books for these *pathsalas* for 1902. But the head clerk of the Presidency Inspector's office has changed them for "*Charu Siksha*" and some other books.

The Presidency Inspector has fixed text-books in English for upper primary and lower primary schools, while under a circular issued by Mr. Pedler in June last English should not be taught in these schools. The same circular says, "it should be noted that English can only be first taught (as a second language) in Standard IV, which corresponds to class I of upper primary schools or class III of middle schools or class VII (section A) of high schools, and it is only then and for sometime to be taught as a second language. But in the Presidency Inspector's list of text-books English has been fixed for classes from and above class VIII (section B) of high schools.

The above shows that Government has done a great mistake in placing the selection of text-books in the hands of Inspectors of Schools. The selection of text-books should always be entrusted to the Head Masters of schools. As a matter of fact an Inspector of Schools, while on inspection examines only one or two higher classes, whilst his Deputy and Sub-Inspectors examine the remaining classes. He therefore remains completely ignorant of the requirements of the lower classes. In the Presidency Inspector's list, National English Reader, Book I, by Lily Soward, has been fixed as the text-book for the 8th class, section B, the class in which English is to be first taught. So there is no provision for teaching the alphabet and small sentences.

We ask if a book can be read without knowing the alphabete. A Word Book is very useful to little boys, but it has not found a place on the Presidency Inspector's list. Royal English Reader Book III, by Tulsi Das Mukerji, is a very difficult book for the 7th Class, Section A, for which it stands on the list. National English Reader, Part IV, by Lily Soward, the text-book for the 4th class, is easier than Chambers's Standard Reading Book V, the text-book for the fifth class. It is the practice in all Entrance Schools to begin in the 4th class one of the books on history which are text books for the Entrance Examination. But the Presidency Inspector has fixed a text book on history for the 4th class which is not a text-book for the Entrance Examination.

Considering the age of the boys who read in the 7th class, they should not be made to study geometry, mensuration, history, etc. This difficulty can be removed by fixing the 4th and 6th classes for the Minor and Upper Primary examinations respectively.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February has the following on the Viceroy's Convocation speech :— HITVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

Truth, even when unpleasant, proves beneficial. That is why the Viceroy's advice, though it was the reverse of sweet, has been to us undoubtedly salutary, and though ostensibly meant for students, it is such as may be well laid to heart by their teachers and guardians as well We have more than once seen and shown how the prevalence of cram and the absence of all independent thought, study and discussion constitute grave blots on the present system of education, and how even many M. A.'s and Premchand Roychand students make themselves the laughing stock of the public by failing to write half-a-dozen lines of correct English. It is therefore only natural that we should feel gratified by His Excellency's advice in this important matter. There can be no doubt that the Viceroy's observations and advice regarding the manner in which the graduates should conduct themselves in life will meet with the approbation of all classes of the community. Even those among them who may decide upon the adoption of journalism as a profession came in for a share of His Excellency's counsel, nay, it seemed to us, as if the part of his address which was meant for all would-be journalists furnished the key-note of the whole speech. The Viceroy said :—

"Next I turn to those among you who are going to enter the honorable profession of journalism. I know something of journalism, and I am acquainted both with its privileges and its snares. In India I have made the closest study of the Native Press since I have been in the country, partly because it

tells me to some extent what the educated minority are thinking and saying, partly because I often learn from it things that I should otherwise never hear of at all. I am not, therefore, an ignorant or a prejudiced witness. On the contrary, I think that Native journalism in India is steadily advancing, and that it is gaining in sobriety and wisdom. But I am not here to-day to discuss merits, I have undertaken the more venturesome task of pointing out weaknesses and errors."

His Excellency then proceeded to point these weakness and errors, and asked such of his auditors as might take to journalism to avoid them. As the Viceroy has acted like a true friend by pointing out faults, his observations deserve careful consideration.

According to Lord Curzon the first fault to be avoided by all journalists " is the insidious tendency to exaggeration." " It is particularly patent on the surface of the Native Press." Now, this charge brought against the Vernacular Press by the Viceroy is not untrue or baseless. It a fact that led away by sensational occurrences and swayed by prejudice and excessive zeal many people contract this tendency to exaggeration. That journalists become the slaves of this vice is principally because they find themselves obliged to execute their task with the utmost expedition. But this tendency to exaggeration is not a monopoly of the East. This vice prevails also in the West.

The newspaper in this country is only an imitation of the newspapers in England. What wonder, then, that the defects which characterise the English newspaper should be copied by the imitation—article manufactured in this country ? Do not English newspapers contain more exaggeration and sensational writing than what appears in native journals ? Then again the requirements of etiquette and the method of showing respect peculiar to India and the genius of the Indian languages are responsible for a good deal of formal exaggeration. Everybody knows that the expressions "dharanishwar," " abanipati," and " naranath " all mean the sovereign. The ruler of a petty state is commonly called by us the " ruler of the earth." When such expressions translated into English appear as " master of the earth," " Lord of the world " and " Protector of mankind," they are simply set down as exaggerations. But they are merely forms peculiar to our language and not, as a matter of fact, exaggerations. Again, when we express a desire to set up a statue of gold and do nothing to give effect to it, we simply show the weakness of the national character. Have not the native newspapers themselves repeatedly dwelt upon this disagreement between practice and profession, this desire to vote a statue and inability to raise the necessary funds ? Why, then, are native journalists taken to task for what is notoriously a national weakness ?

One of the principal causes of this national weakness is poverty. Those that have a wish to do something are precisely the people who lack the money to give effect to the wish, while those who have the money lack the wish. If such had not been the case, we should have long since been able to erect statues in honour of Vidyasagar, Bankim, Harish Mukerji, Ramesh Chandra Mitra, and other native celebrities. This national weakness is, in fact, the cause of the national dogradation. There is certainly no such weakness in England, but the excessive prevalence of exaggeration in that country is simply startling. It is national weakness of no common order that the forgery for which Nuncomar was hanged was exactly that for which Lord Clive was honoured in England. Take the case of the Boer War. Were not the victories of the English army and the defeats of the Boers described in exaggerated language in the English newspapers ? That is why we say that in giving his advice Lord Curzon would have done well if he had made no reference to this or any other country. The fact is, exaggeration is a fault which is a not a monopoly of India. It prevails in all countries.

The second charge brought against the native papers is that they impute the worst motives. " Protest, to the best of your ability, against the actions of Government, but do not impute latent motives." The advice is really valuable from an instructional point of view. But it is not correct to say that native newspapers impute such motives whenever they find Government doing something of which they disapprove. It is certainly improper to impute such

motives. But a study of events and measures occasionally renders such ascription of motives inevitable. When we see that European jurors almost invariably acquit Europeans accused of malterating natives in spite of evidence; when we see this not in one or two instances, but in many successive instances; when even the highest tribunals in the land are found to bring the charge of partiality against European jurors, the conclusion as regards the existence of latent motives becomes unavoidable.

We beg the Viceroy's pardon, but the fault often becomes inevitable; the imputation of motives often proves correct. People have a right to entertain suspicions under certain conditions as to time, place and people. It is also true that owing to defects of judgment we not unoften sin by imputing motives. If there is any forgiveness for the errors of blundering rulers, the errors of blundering journalists also will be forgiven, and the books of the recording angel will certainly contain a list of all sius, great and small.

Lord Curzon's concluding instructions are all and each of them such as we can sincerely approve. His Excellency said:—

"Avoid ambitious metaphors. Do not attack in covert allegories, or calumniate in disguise. Remember, when you use the editorial we, that we is, after all, only I, and that the individual I is only one among three hundred millions. Recollect that your opponent or your victim very often cannot answer you; and that he is often just as good a man, perhaps even a better and wiser, than yourself. Never descend to personalities; avoid that which is scurrilous and vulgar and low. There is always a stratum of society of depraved and prurient tastes. Do not write down to its level, but draw it up to your own. You perhaps have been told that the press ought to be no respecter of persons. Yes, but that is a very different thing from respecting nobody. First learn to respect others, and you will find before long that you have learnt to respect yourself. Do not sharpen your pen-point and think that mere sharpness is wit. Remember the saying of Disraeli in the House of Commons that petulance is not sarcasm, and insolence is not invective. Above all, never forget that the Press has a mission; and that that mission is not to inflame the passions or to cater to the lower instincts of your fellowmen, but to elevate the national character, to educate the national mind and to purify the national taste." (Cheers.)

Indeed, it is not common or unimportant work that the journalist is called upon to perform. His responsibility is as grave as his object is sacred. He proves wanting in his duty if he is unable to conduct his paper in good faith, with self-respect and without fear. Slander is not criticism, meanness is not fearlessness, and disregard of authority is not impartiality. These defects are not a monopoly of the vernacular newspapers, and the number of journals which are disfigured by such defects is daily decreasing.

Non-observance of the pen-and-ink day in a public office.

HITAVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

25. The same paper says that the clerks of the office of the Commissioner of the Sundarbans were deprived of the last Saraswati Puja holiday or the Hindu pen-and-ink day.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

BANGAVASI, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

26. Referring to the Viceroy's Convocation speech, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 22nd February, writes as follows:—

The language of the speech is good and the sentiments are noble. Some people have indulged in a little sarcasm at finding the Viceroy thus composing a series of instructions like the maxims of Chanakya. Some are saying that it would have been better if this advice given to the graduates had been given in verse so as to enable them to easily commit it to memory. Some are of opinion that Lord Curzon has said nothing new, and anybody and everybody could have made such a speech. Others again say that there is nothing so easy as to give advice, and the Viceroy would have acted wisely if he had not made this speech. Many, on the other hand, regard the speech as a very able and learned performance.

It is good advice that the Viceroy has given. In truth, many Indians are at the present time no better than a second fiddle, no better than the cooly who carries the big drum in a band. His Excellency in a manner seems to say—"Indian, be no longer like an inert mass of flesh, do not any longer utter the parrot-cry of Radha Krishna or run like a railway engine. Indian,

be a man, chalk out a career for yourself, dispel the gloom of ignorance by the light of knowledge, and we shall place you in high posts." These are all very sweet words. What can be more gratifying than that, instead of being mere carriers of the big drum as we are, we shall be able to beat it, that instead of being second fiddles, we shall be able to discourse sweet music ourselves? Where is the man whose heart is not delighted by these honeyed words of Lord Curzon? The question now is, when and how shall we be given the independent exercise of such privileges? Another question is, is it proper and expedient that such rights should be given to us? Is there not a tinge of exaggeration in these words of the Viceroy? His Excellency has doubtless hurried himself into loving us with excessive love, but whether or no it has been proper to love us, all at once, so excessively is certainly matter for politicians to ponder over. Suppose by the independent practice of music we gradually become master musicians, become fit for the posts of Lieutenant-Governor and Viceroy, shall we then be appointed to those posts? Again, if in that way we become fit for the post of Commander-in-Chief, will that post be given to us? Even if Lord Curzon so desires, such posts should not certainly be given to us. In India, the Englishman is the soul and the Indian is the body. If through the Englishman's favour, the Indian becomes the soul, there may arise a conflict between soul and soul.

As to the charge of exaggeration brought against the native newspapers by Lord Curzon, we admit it. As an honorific form we sometimes use the plural number where the singular should be used. There are many forms in our language like "to those dearer to us than our life," "to the lotus feet of ——," "to the most exalted ocean of glory," "of such and such a servant, a dependant deserving support and carrying out orders." Of our wife we speak as "the family." These are only forms approved of by the genius of the language and are not interpreted literally. There is a charm in exaggeration which can be enjoyed only by him who knows how to use it. Everybody also knows that there is great difference between exaggeration and false statement, and in deciding whether a particular statement is exaggerated or false regard must be had to the object for which the statement is made. The Viceroy says—"If the impression gets abroad that a newspaper always attacks an individual or a class or an institution, then the friends of the other party never open that newspaper at all, and all its invective will be thrown away." This is very good advice, and we fully approve of this as well as the further advice about avoiding personalities and scurrilous vulgar and low writing. The Viceroy's remark—"Remember, when you use the editorial 'we,' that 'we' is after all only 'I' and that the individual 'I' is only one among three hundred millions," is one that we cannot approve of. His Excellency seems to say that a native newspaper represents the views of only its editor and not those of the people of the country. In other words if there be ten native newspapers published in Calcutta, it must be understood that they speak for only ten persons. The question now is, will this interpretation of the editorial "we" apply to the case of native newspapers only or to that of Anglo-Indian papers also? It has now become necessary for us to know whether the Anglo-Indian editor is "we" or "I."

BANGAVASI, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

Mr. Pedler's new scheme of education.

27. Referring to the enforcement of Mr. Pedler's vernacular scheme in the Government and aided Entrance Schools in Bengal, the same paper writes as follows:—

The new scheme, conceived though it may have been in an honest desire to improve the Bengali language, will cause the ruin of that language, and lay the axe at the root of English education in Bengal. The creation and development of the Bengali literature have been the greatest and brightest achievement of English education in Bengal. That the cultivation of English literature has been the best help in the cultivation of Bengali literature cannot be gainsaid. Everyone knows what a high position English literature at present occupies. But in English schools and colleges there is hardly any endeavour to teach it systematically, and less to cultivate it. The development of Bengali literature is being wrought in the same manner in which English literature has been developed in England. A check upon the cultivation of English in Bengal will therefore ruin the cause of Bengali literature.

Those who have the smallest practical experience of education in Bengal know that students who join Entrance Schools in the 4th and 3rd classes, after prosecuting their studies in vernacular schools, are generally deficient in English. They speak bad English, they write bad English, and their English pronunciation is extremely faulty. But they are not to blame for this. In the vernacular schools they learn English in a Bengali fashion, and English cast in a Bengali mould assumes a form which students afterwards find great difficulty in shaking off. Nor is this the greatest defect of the new scheme. The language of text-books in mathamatics, science, &c., written in Bengali, is queer and un-Bengali. English-knowing people hardly understand them at first sight, and on prolonged reading they find that such books are merely translations of English books. When such is the condition of the Bengali language and of books on science and mathematics, will the object of the authorities in teaching these subjects in Bengali be fulfilled?

Again, to tax the brains of little boys by making them read many stiff books is cruel and indiscreet at the same time. It has always been a defect of the vernacular schools that students are there required to study numerous subjects and thus imperil their health and intellect. And now this defect is going to be introduced into Entrance schools. This is not educational reform; it is educational revolution—education undone.

The office of Minister of Education in India.

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta], of the 24th February, says it is rumoured that Mr. Oscar Browning, an eminent educationist, who is now out on tour in India, will be appointed to the office, about to be created by Lord Curzon, of Minister of Education in India. This is hopeful news; and if the office be created at all, and if Mr. Oscar Browning or any other thoroughly qualified gentleman like him be appointed to it, Lord Curzon will do something that will be highly appreciated by the people of India. PRATIVASI, Feb. 24th, 1902.

(e).—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

Small-pox in the Mymensingh district.

29. A correspondent, writing to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th February from Bansail in the Tangail sub-division, says that small-pox has broken out in villages Bansail, Bhavkhand, Kowanipara, Sailjana, Namdarpur, Kajihara, etc., in the jurisdiction of the Mirjapur outpost. More than one hundred persons have already died, and several deaths are taking place every day; yet, nothing is being done to check the epidemic. CHARU MIHIR. Feb. 18th, 1902.

A Municipal matter in Midnapore.

30. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 19th February publishes a letter purporting to have been written by several respectable rate-payers of Midnapore, complaining that, contrary to the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act, a veranda, a bridge and a drain are now under construction in front of the house newly purchased by Babu Sri Krishna Basu, a Municipal Commissioner of Ward No. I. The correspondents ask if there is one law for the rate-payers and another for the Municipal Commissioners. MEDINI BANDHAV, Feb. 19th, 1901.

Street-sweeping in Calcutta.

31. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that now-a-days municipal sweepers sweep the main streets and roads in the city between 2 and 3 in the afternoon; but the result is that the dust being swept off the streets and roads, is drifted into the roadside shops. The filthy droppings from conservancy carts are permitted to remain and accumulate on the roads; and there is no arrangement for removing them. BASUMATI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

Insanitary condition of Barabazar in Calcutta.

32. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February complains that though every precaution is being taken by the Government to prevent plague from breaking out at Barabazar in Calcutta, the dirty and filthy condition of the streets and lanes in that quarter, which is the real cause of all sorts of epidemic and infectious diseases, is not taken notice of either by the Government or the Municipality. Why dirt and filth are allowed to accumulate and rot in this quarter for weeks together is a mystery. Is not that injurious to the health of the people? It is said that rats are the first to fall victims to plague. And in almost every street and lane in Barabazar a number of dead rats may be BHARAT MITRA, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

seen at any hour of the day. But these things escape the notice of the Municipality. The Municipal authorities ought to know that a large portion of the rates is paid by the Barabazar people.

DACCA PRAKASH, Feb. 23rd, 1902.

Water scarcity in Bikrampur in the Dacca district.

33. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 23rd February says that the villages on both sides of the four principal khals in Bikrampur in the Dacca district, *viz.*, the Mirkadim khal, the Taltala khal, the Dhankunia khal, and the Srinagar khal, suffer from a distressing scarcity of water from *Paus* to *Baisakh* because the khals have nearly silted up. The District Board ought to undertake their re-excavation. To meet the heavy expenditure, an appeal may be made to Government and the well-to-do people in the district for help, and contributions should be made from the Road Cess Fund. Another means of raising funds is to impose a light tax on boats plying for hire in the khals. Last of all, Government may be induced to acquire the proprietorship of the khals from the District Board, and after re-excavation, to farm them out on profitable terms.

BANGABHUMI, Jan. 25th, 1902.

Mosquito and malaria.

34. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 25th February says that in view of the mosquito theory of the causation of malaria, the Government would do well to teach the villagers the easiest methods of killing the animals.

(*f*).—*Questions affecting the land.*

BANGABHUMI, Feb. 25th, 1902.

Appropriation of grazing land in the Bankura district.

35. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 25th February says that Babu Rameswar Naik, zemindar of Balita in the Bankura district, is using as paddy-land nearly one hundred and fifty *bighas* of land in villages Ashwin Kota, Gopalganj, Ramjiha, Dookhrajpur, Gopinathpur, Barhgarhay, Chorekela, Mahashpur, etc., in pargana Bishunpur and thana Kotalpur in the Bankura district, which had from time immemorial been set apart for cattle grazing. This has caused considerable suffering to cattle in the villages, nearly four or five thousand in number. A petition was sent to the Deputy Magistrate to redress the grievance, but to no effect. An appeal is made to the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter.

(*g*)—*Railways and Communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SUHRID, Feb. 22nd, 1902.

The steamer service between Barisal and Ichakhali, and between Barisal and Noakhali.

36. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 22nd February says that the passengers by the India General Company's steamers between Barisal and Ichakhali suffer great inconvenience and hardship. The passengers are not permitted by the steamer employés to make use of the screens to protect themselves against cold. The steamers plying between Barisal and Noakhali are in a wretched condition. Sometimes there is great delay in running the steamers and loss of time to the passengers, owing to the incompetency or obstinacy of the Serang. On the 18th February the steamer *Sparrow* struck against a chur at the Tajmuddi Ghat and was detained for nearly twelve hours.

HITAVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

Outrage on female modesty by railway servants.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February writes as follows:—

On the 12th February last Mr. Robertson, the President of the Railway Commission, many railway authorities, and many leading Indians met in the premises of the Indian Association in Calcutta in order to discuss the grievances of railway passengers. Babu Narendra Nath Sen complained of the frequent cases of outrage on female modesty, and on being asked by Mr. Robertson to cite some recent cases, the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale cited the Kolapur case. Perhaps Mr. Robertson thinks that such cases are very rare, and that people are in the habit of repeating old cases as instances of outrage on female modesty. But why people have to repeat old cases can be easily understood if a little thought is bestowed on the subject. Indian women value their modesty more than their lives; in their opinion disgrace cannot be wiped off by pecuniary damages. This is the reason why most cases of outrage on female modesty in India are suppressed by the parties aggrieved and few cases are allowed to come to light. It is also a

fact that few such cases give rise to such agitation as the Rajabala case of Asansol created. Respectable and high class people pocket insults, and thus prevent newspapers from discussing their cases. Only one or two cases now and then accidentally come to the notice of the authorities. Newspapers also run great risk in discussing such cases. They may report hundreds of cases of outrage committed by railway officers and procure the punishment of the culprits, but if in one such reported case there is the slightest lack of evidence, they run the risk of being threatened by attorneys and hauled up before the law courts for defamation. To illustrate this we will cite an old case which occurred some years ago in the Hathras railway station. In 1301 B. S. Mr. Blake, a guard, and Lalci Mohan, a clerk attached to the railway station, were, by our humble efforts, proved guilty and dismissed. After this and in the same year, the Assistant Station Master of the same station laid his hand on the breast of a respectable Indian lady. We reported the case and were threatened in the manner following:—

BABU KALI PRASANNA KAVYABISHARAD,

Editor *Hitabadi*,

33, Balaram Bose's Ghat Road,

Bhowanipur, Calcutta.

SIR,

I am instructed by my client Mr. Watts, Station Master, E. I. R., Hathras Junction, to institute proceedings against you and the Printer and Publisher of the "*Hitabadi*" for defamation of character with reference to an article which appeared in your paper of the 22nd February, 1895, and which you forwarded to the Agent, E. I. Railway, Calcutta, with your letter of the 23rd February, 1895, in which you specially asked that enquires should be instituted—this has been done and no doubt you have been made aquainted with the result. The enquiry clearly shows that the charges brought against Mr. Watts are false and were maliciously made by Damodar Das, at the instigation of certain of his subordinate staff. The charge brought against Mr. Watts is a serious one, and was published by you without making proper enquiry, and as Mr. Watts is anxious to proceed against the writer of the letter, I am instructed to say (without prejudice) that if you will forward me the original letter, will undertake to prove the receipt, and the writer of it, and will in an early issue of your paper publish a suitable apology (the terms of which must first be submitted to my client for approval) and give it the same prominence as you did the accusation, my client will not proceed against yourself and the Printer, but only against the writer of the letter.

In conclusion I have to inform you that if the original letter, the proposed apoloy, and the undertaking are not received by me on or before the 17th instant, a criminal charge will be filed in the Court of the Magistrate of Agra without further reference to you.

Yours faithfully,

PERCY BALL,

Vikal, High Court, N.-W. P.

We had no intention to defame anybody nor had we any objection to publish a contradiction. Our correspondent was a trustworthy gentleman. We had therefore brought the matter to the notice of the authorities for enquiry. On receiving the above letter we replied as follows:—

"I make no apology, give you no undertaking, and shall do nothing beyond giving your client the fullest opportunity to vindicate himself; and I shall do that of my own accord as soon as the result of the enquiry is communicated to me. So under the circumstances you are at liberty to do what you please, and you need make no reference to me if you mean to take a hostile attitude."

The case was enquired unto by a Traffic Inspector and an Inspector of the Railway Police, both whitemen, and they ascertained that although Mr. Watts, the Station Master, was innocent, Muhammad Mashin, the Assistant

Station Master, had "apparently laid his hand on the breast" of the lady. But in the report which they submitted to the authorities they said nothing as to what punishment should be awarded to Muhammad Mashin, but recommended the dismissal of two railway clerks who were thought to have communicated with the *Hitavadi* in the matter. Such was the enquiry,—if enquiry it can be called, that was held into the matter. The man who had outraged the modesty of a woman was not recommended for punishment, but those who had helped in the publication of the occurrence were recommeded for dismissal. Such, generally, is the nature of the enquiries which are held into railway complaints! We wrote to the Agent for a thorough enquiry. The Traffic Manager wrote to Hathras:—

"The object is to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the allegations. In this case in addition to the report of the *Hitavadi*, we have a specific complaint from Damodar Das. There is nothing in the papers to show your opinion as to the truth or otherwise of the charge, and the evidence leading to your opinion." At last, when it became impossible to shield Muhammad Mashin any longer, the papers relating to the enquiry were sent to the authorities, who found him guilty and dismissed him. And we had the honour to receive the following letter from the Agent's Office:—

No. 3960.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY,

AGENT'S OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

The 29th April 1895.

The Editor "*Hitabadi*," 33, Bolaram Bose's Ghat Road, Bhowanipore, Calcutta.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 26th April 1895, and connected correspondence *re* the complaint against the E. I. Railway, Hathras Junction Station Staff, I am desired by the Agent to state that as the result of departmental enquiry Mohamed Mashin, the Assistant Station Master of that station, has been summarily dismissed the Company's service. Mr. Watts, the Station Master, does not appear to have been in any way connected with the offence, and placed the matter in the hands of the Police at once on a report being made to him.

Yours faithfully,

W. WOOD,

By order.

Supposing Mr. Watts to have placed the matter in the hands of the police, it is certain that he did not inform the Railway authorities about it.

We did not take this omission as lightly as the Railway authorities did. We were sorry that although Mr. Watts committed an offence under section 99 of the Railway Act, yet the authorities took no notice of it. Again, if Mr. Watts placed the matter in the hands of the police, why did not the police investigate? Some time after we were informed that Mashin was still in service. We wrote to the agent about this and got Mashin dismissed.

In the Mallikpur case the offender was found guilty of entering into a female compartment, and no other offence was proved. The relations of the woman who had been in the compartment denied in court what they had said outside. This they did for fear of infamy. We were requested by them not to publish their names and whereabouts. The woman was examined not in the Court but in a private house. All this shows how anxious are the people of this country to conceal cases of outrage on the modesty of their women.

HITAVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902

38. The same paper reports the following cases:—

Railway complaints.

(1) On the 16th February last, when No. 9 Loop Mail train (up) of the East Indian Railway was steaming out of the Rampurhat station, a ticket-collector got into a compartment in which there were a man and his wife and two women, and

began to enjoy himself most vulgarly and shamelessly in the company of the latter, who were dancing girls. At the Nalhati station the ticket-collector and the dancing girls went down. The sooner the railway service is freed from such amorous officers the better. The above ticket-collector must be some *Sikdar*, as the two women called him, "my darling *Sikdar*."

(2) On the 1st February last the Booking Clerk who was selling tickets for the Goalundo Mail train at the Sealdah railway station, gave a man, who bought a ticket, two annas less than his due. The Booking Clerk, however, paid the two annas on being afterwards asked for it. He frequently makes mistakes like this and always in his own favour.

(3) Recently the Booking Clerk of the Faridpur railway station kept some men waiting for tickets for more than fifteen minutes outside the station-room while he was talking and selling tickets to friends inside.

HITAVADI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

Ibid.

39. The same paper says that on the 13th February last some respectable women got into a second-class compartment in No. 8 down train at the Barrackpore railway station. But it so happened that when the signal for starting was given, a female servant of theirs was still on the platform. One of the women in the carriage caught hold of her hand and tried to take her up. On this the guard of the train ran up to the place and pulled the woman, who had helped the female servant, down by the hand. On this the other woman in the compartment leapt down on the platform. The train was in motion at that time, but happily the women were not hurt. Would the guard have ventured to act in the same manner if the women had been of the white colour?

HINDI BANGUVASI, Feb. 21st, 1902.

Ibid.

40. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th February says that a native lady who intended coming from Barrackpore to Calcutta by railway the other day, was actually dragged out of a railway carriage by the guard of the train at the Barrackpore station. It is not decorum to catch the hand of an unknown female, and the higher railway authorities are requested to take notice of the matter.

PRATIVASI, Feb. 24th, 1902.

Railway matters.

41. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of 24th February enumerates some of the inconveniences and hardships of railway passengers—(1) Railway platforms are not sufficiently high or long. (2) There is want of sufficient light on the platforms. (3) Oil dribbles from oil-lamps in the compartments, and oil-lamps go out. (4) Platforms are not provided with sheds. (5) There is want of waiting accommodation for female passengers. (6) The supply of drinking water is insufficient, and sometimes unwholesome water is supplied. (7) The railway employés do not show courtsey and civility. (8) The railway employés demand illegal gratification. (9) There is irregularity in the work of the booking office. (10) Articles are stolen on transit.

(*h*)—*General.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Feb. 18th, 1902.

The Assam cooly question.

42. Referring to the Government of India's reply to the letter of the Indian Tea Association on the allegations made by the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton regarding the tea-planters in Assam in relation to the coolies in tea-gardens, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 18th February says that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's observations are based on direct knowledge and actual experience whilst those of the Government of India are purely hypothetical. Under the circumstances, whose observations are the more valuable? Will the Viceroy be so good as to privately and through confidential agents enquire why it is that the poor starving coolies have a horror of the tea-gardens, that coolie-recruiters have often to resort to all sort of tricks, cajolery and deceit, that the appearance of a coolie-recruiter in a village creates a panic among the poor people like the sudden appearance of a tiger in their midst, and that a coolie, who has returned home from a tea-garden, would never consent to go there again. The result of such an inquiry will surely lead the Viceroy to agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton in his view of the condition of the coolies in the tea-gardens in Assam.

BASUMATI, Feb. 20th, 1902.

Lord Curzon and Mr. Cotton.

43. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th February writes as follows:—

Sir John Peter Grant suffered humiliation for going against the indigo-planters of Bengal. Lord Ripon was discomfited in a conflict with the indigo-planters of Bihar and the tea-planters of Assam. Mr. Cotton's recent discomfiture in his conflict with the Assam planters is therefore not unprecedented. Neither is the action of Lord Curzon in this matter unprecedented. For Lord Canning had to support the indigo-planters of Bengal, and in Lord Ripon's time the Secretary of State for India had to take the side of the indigo-planters of Bihar and the tea-planters of Assam. Again German artificial indigo has ruined the indigo concern of Bengal and Bihar. Similarly, the tea-concern of Assam may fail one day. None knows what lies hidden in the future. But the Assam planter should remember that where there is virtue there only is victory.

The disgrace which Sir John Peter Grant and Lord Ripon had to suffer will be borne by Mr. Cotton with no great pain. But if the lot of the indigo-planters befal the tea-planters, we too will have to suffer the consequence. And then a thousand Lord Curzons will not be able to avert the catastrophe. Everything should be done with an eye to honesty. It is true that much of the prosperity of Assam has been due to tea and tea-planters, but much of the prosperity of the southern States of America was also due to oppressive slave owners. It is *dharma*, and not politics and finance, which should weigh most with man. Lord Curzon is still a young man, but Mr. Cotton has passed his youth. Lord Curzon has made a mistake, but to err is human. Towards the close of his administration Lord Ripon tried to atone for the wrong which he had done at its commencement in the matter of the cooly law, Lord Curzon has still time before him.

IV—NATIVE STATES.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN, Feb. 17th, 1902.

The financial outlook of the Nizam's Government.

44. The *Roznama-i-Mukkadas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 17th February is sorry that the financial condition of the Nizam's Government has become very bad, and that a reduction of the salaries of all employés in that State is under contemplation. All *amla* and jagirdars of the State are, in consequence, in a state of discontent. Fear and consternation have caught hold of their minds, as they do not know what will become of them in future.

V—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA-BAZAR PATRIKA, Feb. 19th, 1902.

The cause of Indian famines.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th February writer as follows:—

The Indians say that the real cause of famines in India is the regular drain of vast sums of money from India into foreign countries, which increases the poverty of the people year after year. But our rulers dare not acknowledge this, for by acknowledging it they would be giving the lie to their vaunted statement that the prosperity of India during the last hundred years of British rule has been such as India never saw before. For some time they sought for a scape-goat on which to lay the whole blame of Indian famines. At last they found it in the person of the god of rain. Famines, they say, are caused by droughts. But in England also droughts are not unknown, and England grows comparatively small quantities of food-grains. But she has money, she buys grains from foreign countries, and consequently never sees famine. To this argument against the drought theory of famines in India our rulers never condescend to reply.

In times of famine in India food-grains never fall short. But people suffer and die because they have not money to buy them. The god of rain is therefore not to blame for famines in India, because he can give only water and not wealth. It is those who are draining away Indian wealth that are responsible for famines in India. Had our rulers taken the blame on themselves instead of trying to place it on the god of rain, the demon of famine would have been driven from India long before. But they will never acknowledge their fault and so the demon will never leave India.

Uriya Papers.

Samvad Vahika, Feb. 13th, 1902.

Health of the Puri and Balasore districts.

46. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th February says that small-pox has made its appearance in the Balasore district. The Khurda correspondent of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th February states that cholera, small-pox, chicken-pox and a bad type of fever are creating great uneasiness among the people of the Puri district.

Samvad Vahika,

The contemplated abolition of the salt-tax.

47. The same papers are glad to learn that Lord Curzon is contemplating to abolish the salt-tax in India on the ground that it affects the poor and the needy. They are of opinion that this measure of His Excellency will be looked upon as a piece of wise statesmanship.

Sambalpur Hitaishini, Feb. 12th 1902.

A patriotic press in Puri town proposed.

48. The Puri correspondent of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 12th February argues that since Puri is an ancient seat of learning, and influences, even to the present day, a large number of men and women in all parts of India, it is necessary that a printing press, controlled and directed by a capable hand, should be there always at work, with the object of infusing the feeling of united brotherhood into the minds of the different sections of the Hindu community who happen to come under the influence of the god Jagannath.

Utkaldipika. Feb. 15th, 1902.

Famine in the Western Presidency.

49. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th February is sorry to note that the number of men and women receiving aid in relief camps in the Western Presidency has considerably increased in the past week, and that this has become a matter of public anxiety.

Utkaldipika,

Wanted roads in the native states in Orissa.

50. Alluding to the fact that the Maharaja of Keonjhur has opened out his territory by the construction of a much desired road, the same paper exhorts all the Tributary Chieftains of Orissa to pay particular attention to the construction of good and passable roads connecting the *gurhs* with the Grand Trunk Road that passes through British territory. The writer points out that the Chieftains and their subjects will benefit by such roads in the long run. The writer further suggests that the proposed branch railway connecting Sambalpur with Khurda should at once be taken up, as it will open up a great part of the Orissa Gurjats.

Utkaldipik.

Mr. K. G. Gupta at the Cuttack Industrial Exhibition.

51. Referring to the interesting speech which Mr. K. G. Gupta, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, delivered at Cuttack on the occasion of the opening of the Cuttack Annual Exhibition of Products of Agriculture and Art and which is printed *in extenso* in his paper, the editor of the same paper observes that the speech was full of sympathy and advice and was calculated to go straight into the hearts of the audience, who were greatly encouraged by the patriotic utterances of the speaker. After alluding to the fact that the late Prince Albert, consort of our late beloved Queen-Empress and father of our present august sovereign, was the originator of the Great Exhibition of 1851 in the United Kingdom, Mr. Gupta went on to shew how the idea spread through different parts of the British Empire, taking root even in a backward Province like Orissa, where the first agricultural show of cattle and country produce was held at Cuttack in February 1865. Mr. Gupta was satisfied that the co-operation of the general body of contributors and exhibitors had made the Cuttack exhibition a popular institution, and he enumerated the advantages that such an institution, if properly managed and controlled, was likely to confer on the general public. Mr. Gupta failed not to pay a fitting tribute to the memory of the ancient Uriya workmen, about whom he said that they built like Titans and finished like Jewellers. To show that the artistic instinct of the Uriyas has not quite disappeared, he pointed to the factory of the Hon'ble Mr. Das, where splendid filigree works are turned out, and to the stone-cutters of Bhuvaneswar, who, according to Mr. Arnott, the Executive Engineer in charge of the Bhuvaneswar temple repairs, are fully able to copy the old works to perfection. After paying compliments to Mr. Beale, the Honorary Secretary and his co-adjutors, and

after thanking the ladies and gentlemen present, Mr. Gupta drew hope and strength from what he saw around him, and declared the Cuttack Agricultural Exhibition of 1902 open with the following prayer: "May our annual functions materially help not only to revive forgotten or neglected arts and industries, but also to introduce new cults and new staples, to improve cultivation, and to regenerate the breed of cattle."

UTKALDIPIKA. Feb. 15th, 1902.

Lord George Hamilton on the condition of the people of India.

52. The same paper regrets to learn that Lord George Hamilton refused to receive the address of the Indian Famine Association simply on the ground that it contained no new matter, and that he stated, in answer to Mr. Caine's question in the House of Commons, that the Indians are not becoming poorer day by day, but are, on the contrary, becoming more and more able every day to cope successfully with the dire effects of famine and its accompanying evils. The writer thinks that the Secretary of State is quite ignorant of the condition of an Indian village, and that he will know more by paying a visit to such a village than by wading through a mass of blue-books on the platform of the House.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Should India bear a portion of the South African War expense?

53. The same paper is curious to know what will be the reply of His Excellency the Viceroy to the address of the European tea-merchants in India, who recommend that India should rather bear a portion of the expenses of the South African War than that tea-industry should suffer in any way by the imposition of taxes in England.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Deaths in a feast in Puri town.

54. Referring to the death of a few Brahmins at Puri, the same paper regrets that the proceedings of the enquiring Magistrate are not yet out, and states that the public are impatient to know the party or parties to whom the blame of such a catastrophe attaches.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK, Feb. 18th, 1902

Police Reform.

55. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 18th February has the following communicated article in English:—

"The question of the reform of police has engaged the public mind for many years. It has been repeatedly discussed in public prints. The attention of Government has at last been awakened to this matter, and it has unequivocally admitted the urgent need of reform in this direction. The Government of Bengal has formulated a scheme for the re-organisation of the police force under which first appointments in the rank of Sub-Inspectors are made by open competitive examinations on a monthly pay of Rs. 30. Ill-paid head-constables are no longer to be entrusted with the investigation of cases. In these days of scarcity, when the necessaries of life are so dear, it is very hard for a man to make the two ends meet with Rs. 12 or 15 a month; when such a man is invested with all but absolute powers and empowered to investigate police cases, it is too much to expect him to do his work honestly. To be able to do the work required of him, he is compelled to keep a pony. Now, just imagine his position. The man has a family to support: he has to support himself in a style befitting his rank (for head constables are not ordinary mortals) and he has to keep a pony and employ a syce on Rs. 6 or 7 a month. And to meet all these items of expenditure he is given Rs. 15 a month. Is he not therefore indirectly told that he must eke out his pittance as best as he can by abusing the power that he has been invested with? Though he wishes to do his work honestly and conscientiously, yet circumstances compel him to sell his conscience by accepting or rather extorting illegal gratification. Head constables are again generally recruited from a class of men who have no pretence to education,—men whose moral nature has received no culture through liberal education. How can such men be expected to be above corruption? To resist temptation successfully presupposes a force of character which can only be evoked by proper education. We are, however, painfully alive to the fact that solitary instances unfortunately occur of even our graduates not being above corruption.

"It is said that such graduates bring their superior education or rather book-learning to bear upon acquiring a proficiency in the art of levying blackmail, which uneducated may try in vain to attain. But such instances are

indeed very rare. There must be black sheep in every flock. This does not diminish our faith in the value of education. Because there is one graduate in a thousand, nay, in a hundred, who is so unfortunate as to be liable to corruption, we are not prepared on that account to admit that education does not call forth a man's moral nature. When a thousand seeds grow and fructify in some soil, but one does not, the result is due not to the sterlity of the soil but to the badness of the particular seed.

"It is therefore a move in the right direction that poorly-paid head-constables are no longer to be entrusted with investigation of cases. We are confident that this change will produce very satisfactory results, and wil' go a great way towards creating confidence in the public mind as to the incorruptibility of the reformed police and placing police administration on a much more satisfactory footing. Perhaps it may not be generally admitted that education or at least the sort of education which our youths now receive in our schools and colleges brings about such a development of the moral faculties as may enable our graduates and under-graduates to manfully resist all temptation and rise superior to every corruption. It will, at any rate, be admitted on all hands that raising the pay of the lowest grade of investigating police officers to Rs. 30 and obviating in consequence the necessity of their resorting to bribery for sheer want will tend to effect a healthy reform on the police and altogether improve its moral tone.

"The Adminstration of Assam has partially accepted the Bengal scheme of reorganisation—partially because it has not yet adopted the system of competitive examination for selection of men for appointment to the 30 rupee grade of Sub-Inspectors. Unless properly educated men be appointed, mere raising the pay, we are afraid, will not serve the purpose. As far as we have been able to know, this 30 rupee grade of Sub-Inspectors is being manned usually by promotion of existing head-constables who have already been inured to corruption and who cannot therefore be expected to be able easily to give up the vile habit that they have contracted. We do not object to the promotion of carefully selected honest and qualified men from among existing head-constables. What we object to is indiscriminate promotion without regard to educational qualifications and previous good character. In our humble opinion, the system of competitive examination should also be introduced in Assam. It has been tried, we hope, with very good results in Bengal, and we see no reason why it cannot be tried in Assam as well. If the paucity of vacancies that are likely to occur annually be the reason why this administration does not wish to select candidates here by competitive examinations, it can lay down this rule that none but F. A.'s should be appointed to the 30 rupee grade of Sub-Inspectors. Rs. 30 is no doubt a good pay for F. A.'s to begin with. If this hard and fast rule be laid down, it will we feel sure serve the same purpose as competitive examination. Without such a rule authoritatively laid down, the Assam Police, we are decidedly of opinion, will not be reformed. We beg to invite the attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner to these our humble remarks and trust that His Honour will be pleased to seriously consider them."

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 1st March, 1902.

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